Fall in crude oil production

3290. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been continuous fall in crude oil production in the country over the last three years;

(b) if so, the main reasons for the shortfall;

(c) whether ONGC has taken any steps for increasing the production and to meet the internal targets for 2009-10; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However there is slight decline in the production of crude oil during the year 2008-09. The production of crude oil during 2006-07, 2007-08 and 2008-09 was 33.980 Million Metric Tonnes (MMT), 34.053 MMT and 33.404 MMT respectively.

The slight decline in production in 2008-09 is due to less than envisaged gain from ongoing Improved Oil Recovery (IOR)/Enhanced Oil Recovery (EOR) schemes in Onshore Assets, natural decline of old oil fields and increase in water cut in major matured fields etc.

(c) and (d) Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC) has taken various steps/initiatives for augmenting/maintaining the crude oil production including use of IOR and EOR and stimulation techniques for increasing production from existing fields in addition to focus on repair of existing wells, artificial lift and stimulation of wells etc.

Demand of gas

3291. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the country's gas demand is expected to touch 280 MMSCMD by 2012, from 196 MMSCMD now;

(b) if so, the present capacity of GAIL for gas production in the country;

(c) whether Government proposes to build a 6,000 km. gas pipeline grid that would criss-cross the country;

(d) if so, how much this National Gas Highway Scheme would cost and in what manner Government plans to help its funding; and

(e) what allocations have been made during 2009-2010 in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) As per the "Report of Working Group on Petroleum and Natural Gas Sector for the Eleventh Plan", country's demand for natural gas is expected to increase to 279.43 mmscmd by the year 2011-12 from the level of 196.64 mmscmd in 2008-09.